

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of December 29, 2006 is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the Examiner indicated that claims 21 and 25 contain allowable subject matter. However, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 18, particularly as now amended, clearly distinguishes over Hamada.

It is respectfully submitted and believed that claim 18 clearly distinguishes over Hamada for the reasons as were set forth in the remarks accompanying the Response filed October 2, 2006. By the above amendments, further, claim 18 has been amended to recite that the sharpness preventing means comprises adjustment layers provided at at least two locations between the plurality of layers and on both ends of the layered structure, the adjustment layers preventing an amount of change in transmittance from changing sharply between the plurality of layers.

It can for example be seen from Fig. 1(b) how adjustment layers are provided on both ends of the layered structure, as well as at at least two locations therebetween.

In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to a matching layer C as an adjustment layer, referring to Fig. 3. However, as can be seen, this layer is only provided at one location, adjacent to the light-receiving substrate 2.

Further, even if refractive layers 2 and 30 recited by the Examiner as having an optical thickness of $\lambda/8$ were to be considered adjustment layers, the layers would still not meet the limitation of claim 18, either in its prior form or its current form.

Previously, claim 18 required the sharpness preventing means have at least one adjustment layer provided at at least one location between the layers, and on both ends of the layers structure. This is not found in Fig. 3. At this point, claim 18 even further requires that there be two adjustment layers between the plurality of layers, as well as on both ends of the layered structure. This even further defines over Hermada.

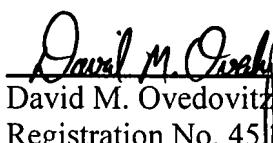
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18, as well as all of the dependent claims depending therefrom, clearly patentable distinguishes over Hermada. Indication of such is respectively requested.

In view of the fact that claim 18 clearly distinguished over Hermada in its prior form, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection made in the Office Action of December 29, 2006 must be withdrawn. Further, the new Office Action must be made non-final, and the above amendment should be entered as a matter of right.

Respectfully submitted,

Eiichi KAMEDA

By:



David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 451336
for
Nils E. Pedersen
Registration No. 33,145
Attorney for Applicant

NEP/ats
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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